



THE LITTLE ACORN

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
darnestowncivic.org

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President's Corner

Note from the President

By Scott Mostrom



I recall a conversation in a DCA Board meeting some 25 years ago. I don't remember how it started but we got onto the rush-hour traffic on River Road. Working in Tyson's Corner, I was very familiar with the River Rd.

backups around the Falls Rd. intersection. The question was asked (it may very well have been a younger, naiver me) "Why don't they just expand River Rd. to four lanes?" Someone quickly chimed in that Potomac was intentionally not doing that—that expanding the roads would only lead to more capacity and more cars (and eventually a similar backup) and they would rather deal with the known inconveniences than support a larger thoroughfare through Potomac Village.

That made sense ... like Fields of Dreams, "if you build it, they will come." Every commuter that had to get to the American Legion Bridge back then made the calculation—do I take 270 or some other concoction of Potomac back roads to get me to the American Legion Bridge the fastest. They still do that today—it's why they invented the Waze app.

When I'd processed the response in that meeting, I distinctly recall that empathetic but thankful feeling—it was too bad that Potomac had to deal with that but phew, thank goodness that wasn't an issue for Darnestown. That's not the case for us anymore. For anyone trying to get down county or into Virginia, that calculation now includes Darnestown.

If you're a commuter, you know the choke points and backups in Darnestown. If you're a resident trying to get out of your neighborhood onto a main road, especially Rt. 28, you know the nervous anxiety of waiting (often with other cars lined up behind you) for just

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What's Happening in Darnestown

Further details can be found in this issue.

Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26; Nov. 2, 2023 | 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Butler Montessori Farm & Forest Explorers Program
www.ButlerSchool.org/Forest

Oct. 6, 2023 | 6:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.
52nd Annual Hoedown
Smokey Glen Farm
www.darnestowncivic.org

Nov. 1, 2023 | All Day
Deadline for the September issue of *The Little Acorn*
Email ideas, questions or articles to acorn@darnestowncivic.org

Nov. 9, 2023 | 6:30 p.m.
Seneca Academy Parenting Series
"Understanding Your Child's Developing Brain"
www.senecaacademy.org/parenting-series/

Nov. 10, 2023 | 9:30 a.m.
Veteran's Day Breakfast
Darnestown Presbyterian Church
www.darnestowncivic.org

Dec. 2023 (Exact date coming soon)
Darnestown Tree Lighting
Date and details will be posted in November at www.darnestowncivic.org

Dec. 8, 2023
Menorah Lighting
Details will be posted in November at www.darnestowncivic.org

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enough of a break in traffic to safely pull out. And if you pick up or drop your kids off at Darnestown Elementary, you especially know it. These issues are a major reason the DCA formed the Roads Task Force in 2019, with twelve volunteers focused on safety for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians on Darnestown's 109 roads.

So, how are we going to make this better? Well, I want to first give some context of where we are. During my lifetime, at least, there have only been a few major changes to Darnestown's roads. All three of our traffic lights were added, all on Rt. 28: at Rt. 118, Seneca Road, and Riffleford Road. The only other significant changes have been the width of Rt. 28 in the center of town for additional turn lanes and the tapering of four lanes of Rt. 28 to two lanes at Riffleford Rd. Otherwise, Darnestown is still all two-lane and rustic roads.

The long-term solution is working with the County and State on plans that will divert commuters from leveraging Darnestown's back roads. Some of this is extremely long term, though more immediate State plans to expand 270, the Beltway, and the American Legion Bridge should improve the commuter calculation away from Darnestown.

In terms of more immediate solutions, we want to keep our two-lane and rustic roads as they are but focus on reducing speed and improving the safety at our most troublesome intersections. Right now, the two that

we are particularly focused on are the Rt.28/Turkey Foot and Rt. 28/Jones Lanes intersections. In our 2021 Darnestown Roads Survey, these were the top two you wanted to see improved—84% and 75% respectively.

Earlier this year we requested new State traffic studies at both intersections and, following those studies, were told “we do not recommend additional traffic control devices at this time.” Anecdotal evidence and comments I hear from residents states otherwise. My daughter can drive on her provisional license with me to the Rio Center and I can tell you that those are the two places along the way where I'm most anxious. We are still pushing hard for both intersections but it will be a process.

Finally, there are a couple of things on the process to improve these intersections I want to really impress on you, our residents. The first is that the DCA and Roads Task Force are not advocating for a specific “traffic control device” (stop light, traffic circle, or something else)—we are advocating to improve safety and will rely on traffic experts and public input for the right solution. The second is that there will likely be some inconveniences in the name of safety. We want these intersections to be safer and more efficient but that could very well make your trek through Darnestown longer, even in non-rush-hour. Living on Black Rock Road, for example, I'm expecting that.

We'll continue to keep you updated.

DCA News

Darnestown's 52nd Annual Hoedown is Friday, October 6th

Hey Darnestown, it's Fall, and you know what that means! It's time to dust off your boots for the 52nd Annual Darnestown Hoedown. Join the DCA on Friday, October 6, 2023 as we host another night full of dancing, music and lots of laughs. The adult only



event takes place in Darnestown, at Smokey Glen Farm (16407 Riffle Ford Road) from 6:30 p.m.–11:30 p.m. It's a one-of-a-kind experience led by square dance caller Mac McCall, who has been the caller for most of the years we have gathered. The night concludes with live music from local musicians Billie and Boogie. The menu includes chicken, ribs, soup beans, potato salad, salad bar and pies. Tickets are \$45 per person for DCA member, and \$55 per person for non-members. It is a night you won't forget! Tickets will be sold until September 28, 2023. Contact social@darnestowncivic.org with any questions about the event. We hope to see you there!

Go to www.darnestowncivic.org or scan the QR code to purchase tickets and for details



2023 Scholarship Winners Announcement

*By the Darnestown Civic Association
Scholarship Committee*

The Darnestown Civic Association is excited and proud to announce the winners of the 4th Annual DCA Scholarship and the 4th Annual Bruce Deppa Scholarship. All applicants were graduating seniors within the DCA boundaries.

The DCA Scholarship which supports the applicant who demonstrated civic engagement, was awarded to Phebe Kondinya. Phebe graduated Northwest High School and is starting her freshman year at American University pursuing Political Science. Phebe is very actively involved with the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) serving as captain for the last 2 years.

The Bruce Deppa Scholarship, which supports the applicant who embodies all things Darnestown, was awarded to Abby Hanson. Abby graduated Northwest High School and is starting her freshman year at University of Wisconsin-Madison pursuing Data Science. Abby graduated with a 4.0 grade point average (unweighted) and was very active in several honor societies. Abby is also a fixture at the Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club where she manages the pool and lifeguards, and teaches swim to many children of the Darnestown community.

The DCA Scholarship program seeks to further the DCA's mission of supporting and enhancing the lives of Darnestown residents, specifically the youth. Once again, the applicant pool proved that Darnestown's future is bright! Congratulations Phebe and Abby. The Darnestown community wishes you lots of success as you begin your new journey!

DCA Scholarship Essay

By Phebe Kondinya

Darnestown is a community filled with learning, respect, and mentorship and these elements have all been a part of growing up within this community. Being a part of Darnestown has not only affected the way I was raised but how I mentor others. Like many Darnestown residents, my earliest memories begin in Darnestown Elementary. Beginning as a new student in first grade, I was shown immense kindness and inclusion that al-

lowed me to adjust to a new setting. My welcome buddy immediately introduced me to her friends and some are still my close friends today. As I've grown up I've passed on these same principles to other younger students I meet through band and school clubs. Darnestown taught me how being a part of an inclusive community is so important. Thus, I found my own place in other similar communities such as Northwest High School's Ulysses Program and Potomac Horse Center.

Northwest is a giant high school where one grade can be double the entire population of Darnestown Elementary. If Northwest represents Maryland then the Ulysses Program is Darnestown. Throughout my time in the program, I have taken a large leadership role in conveying the program's values of respect, innovation, and exploration. This was accomplished through speaking to parents and going back to my middle school to promote the program. Last fall, at the Ulysses Parent Night, I spoke to parents of incoming Darnestown freshmen about the merits of the program. Additionally, when I returned to represent the program at Lakelands Park I also spoke to many former Darnestown students about the benefits I found in being in Ulysses. My knowledge and skills in mentoring younger students began at DES, starting with their reading buddies program, a system of older students mentoring younger ones. Having learned of its importance, I still use that practice today, through mentoring Juniors in Ulysses on their prospective projects.

I have carried these principles into my extracurricular and work activities. I've ridden at Potomac Horse Center for 10 years, and it's as much a part of my upbringing as Darnestown. It has been a place where I've learned not only how to ride but also the thrill of competition, being on a team, and valuable work skills. Not only am I a student at Potomac, but I am also an employee working within my community. What's special about the horse center is anyone can ride there, including many kids from Darnestown. Working on aisle staff I help students work with the horses for their weekly lesson. The barn gave me a way to interact with younger kids and teach them through the same principles I learned in Darnestown even outside community lines. Additionally, when hosting open houses several Darnestown families will come. I get to meet everyone and represent the kind of person who grows and thrives in the Darnestown community. While Darnestown may be small, its influence has no boundaries and it made me who I am today.

DCA News

Safety Committee Update

By DCA Safety Committee Team

DCA is pleased to announce that there have been zero known/reported incidents of crime within the Darnestown environs since the June 2023 issue of *The Little Acorn*.

The DCA Safety Committee learns of criminal activity in a variety of ways, including members of the community notifying us via safety@darnestowncivic.org, meeting with our Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) District One partners, reviewing MCPD's online Weekly Crime Summaries, and good-old-fashion word of mouth.

As our MCPD District One Community Service Team often reminds us, the squeaky wheel gets the grease... meaning that police resources will be redirected to those areas where there is documented criminal activity.

As a gentle courtesy reminder, if you see or hear something, please say something.

Failing to report criminal activity has the potential for making a community more vulnerable.

Crime Prevention

Crime prevention message from Montgomery County Police Dept (MCPD):

“Don't make it easy for car thieves. Thefts from unlocked vehicles are easily prevented and continue to be a high-volume crime. All residents are urged to remove valuables, take vehicle keys, and lock vehicle doors when leaving your vehicle unattended.”

MCPD's online Weekly Crime Summaries (Note: Darnestown is located in the western portion of District 1 and patrolled by beat B2):

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/data/weekly-crime-summaries.html>

Link to an interactive map identifying Montgomery County Police District boundaries (enter your address):

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/districts/find-my-district.html>

Fire Prevention

In recognition of Fire Prevention Week (Oct 08-14, 2023), DCA's Safety Committee, offers the following pertinent information, courtesy of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMCVFD), our local rural volunteer fire station #714, located in Beallsville, MD, at the intersection of State Road 28 and 109 ... within 10 miles of the Darnestown Village.

Quick Fire Safety Tips

<https://youtu.be/BLjoWjCrDqg> (fire extinguisher safety)

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs-info/firesafety.html> (smoke alarm installation & home safety program)

Please review UMCVFD's website (UMCVFD.org), for lots of safety related information, to include: CPR training classes, reflective address signs, volunteer opportunities, along with many UMCVFD sponsored community related events.

Training Opportunity

In response to the communities expressed concerns regarding a reported increase in opioids, DCA is partnering with our public safety and health communities to offer training regarding the effective use of naloxone (brand name Narcan). Naloxone is the life-saving medication that can reverse an opioid overdose. The training provides information on how to recognize an opioid overdose, administer naloxone and care for the individual until emergency services arrive. Please continue to follow updates via DCA's Thursday bi-weekly e-newsletter and respond with your intentions to attend this limited-seating capacity training, anticipated to be held in September or October 2023.

Thank you for all you do to make Darnestown a darn good place to live, work, and visit.

Remember: You can view *The Little Acorn* online in full color and with clickable links.

Go to darnestowncivic.org.

DCA News

2023 Executive Board Election Results

The Nominating Committee is proud to announce that on June 15, 2023, the following officers were elected to serve on the Board for the Darnestown Civic Association:

- Scott Mostrom: *President*
- Paul Klee: *Vice President*
- Gretchen Brown: *Treasurer*
- Matthew Quinn: *Secretary*
- Scott Damiecki: *Trustee (through 2024)*

- Will Lowe: *Trustee (through 2025)*
- Kellie Hodges: *Trustee (through 2026)*

The DCA is always looking for additional leaders from our community to provide their insight and support for the Association. If you live in Darnestown and are interested in taking a more active role in the Civic Association, please let us know by reaching out to dca@darnestowncivic.org.

Darnestown Softball League Wraps Up Tight, Competitive Season

One of the most competitive seasons in the 32-year history of the Darnestown Softball League wrapped up on August 6th with the crowning of Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR) as the 2023 Champs. BHR captured its third consecutive (and 19th overall) title in dramatic fashion on perhaps the most exciting day in the history of the league. The entire season came down to one last Sunday, and two tight, tense games determined the final outcome.

Heading into “Showdown Sunday” three of the four teams still had a chance to win the title. First place Central Darnestown Swingers (CDS) could capture the crown in the early game with a victory over rival Western Darnestown. CDS fell just short however, losing 9-8, leaving the tying and winning runs on base as the game ended. This result set up a “winner-take-all” second game between BHR and Jones Lane. After Jones Lane jumped out to an early 7-3 lead, BHR clawed back and the score was tied going to the last inning. Jones Lane was unable to score in the top of the 7th and BHR captured the title in the bottom of the frame, taking the 11-10 victory and the crown.

The entire 2023 season was characterized by a large number of close, highly competitive games and featured the fewest rain-outs (2) since 2015. Although Western Darnestown secured only two victories, they were highly competitive in most games, and finished strong. It’s no exaggeration to say that EVERY team has every right to think that next season could be their year, owing to the strong parity of play throughout the summer.

Congratulations to BHR and to all league players



The Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield Championship Team

for an outstanding season. We are especially grateful to the DCA for their support, and to the legions of neighborhood friends and family members who made Darnestown Park the place to be throughout many a summer Sunday afternoon. See you all in '24!

FINAL RESULTS			
<u>TEAM</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield	6	3	1
Central Darnestown Swingers	6	4	0
Jones Lane	5	4	1
Western Darnestown	2	8	0

What's New in Darnestown

A NOTE TO OUR READERS: While this page did not appear in the printed edition of the September 2023 issue of *The Little Acorn*, we were eager to announce these business updates. We look forward to sharing more information about, "What's New in Darnestown," in the December printed edition of the newsletter.

Seneca Road Residential Projects Status Updates

By Pam DuBois

Seneca Farm (Under Construction)

D.R. Horton's Emerald Series of homes (see rendering below) at Seneca Farm includes 27 single-family houses each on over 1.5 acres. A new road, Seneca Farm Lane, (located off Seneca Road in between Spring Meadows Drive and Springfield Road) has been paved along with other infrastructure and three of the homes are currently under construction. A model home is expected to be opening in early October. For more information: **New Homes in Seneca Farm | Darnestown, MD | Emerald Series (drhorton.com)**



14116 Seneca Road (Under Construction)

A single-family home is currently under construction on a one-acre site. Completion is expected by year end. Front and rear building elevations are illustrated below.



14124 Seneca Road (3 Vacant Lots)

Plans have been approved for the three lots and the Plat has been recorded. Commencement of street front improvements are anticipated this fall. These frontage improvements include swales, a shared use path and tree plantings (street front and back of the property). Per Maryland and County requirements, current trees along the street will have to be taken down.

Village Comings and Goings

By Pam DuBois

D'Amour School of Dance (Now Open @ 14116 Darnestown Road))

The D'Amour School of Dance has been in business for over 15 years and selected Darnestown for its sixth regional location. Visit their website for more information: **Home | D'Amour School of Dance, LLC (theloveof-dance.org)**



HEIRLOOM (Opening this Fall @ 14111 Seneca Road)

Shopkeepers and sisters, Rachel Petruccelli and Rosina Aguiar are opening a place to shop for antiques, vintage furniture and other finds for lifestyle and home. Follow for updates on Instagram **@shop_heirloom_**

The Surrey Saddlery (Now Closed @ 14120 Darnestown Road)

The Surrey just celebrated its 70th anniversary (over 10 of which were located in Darnestown). Congratulations to the proprietor, Lyne Morgan who decided it was time to retire. We are sad to see The Surrey close!

Darnestown Civic Association

Proudly Presents



Darnestown's 52nd Annual

SCAN HERE
FOR TICKETS



HOEDOWN

Friday, October 6, 2023

6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

SMOKEY GLEN FARM

Main Pavillion

16407 Riffle Ford Road

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Dinner/Drinks

.....

8:00-10:00 p.m.

Square Dancing

Featuring
Darnestown's
Favorite Caller
Mac McCall

.....

10:00-11:30 p.m.

Live Music

(Billy and Boogie)

TICKETS:

\$45/pp: DCA Member

\$55/pp: Non Member

FOOD:

Chicken ★ Ribs ★ Soup

Beans ★ Potato Salad

Salad Bar ★ Pies

ALL-INCLUSIVE

OPEN BAR:

Beer ★ Wine ★ Liquor

LIVE MUSIC



Billy and Boogie

Visit DARNESTOWNCIVIC.ORG to purchase tickets.

Reservations must be made by Sept. 28, 2023. No tickets at the door.

DARNESTOWN

www.darnestowncivic.org

Meet Our New Business Member

Georgetown Hill Early School: Nurturing Young Minds for a Bright Future



Georgetown Hill Early School is a leader in early childhood education, providing a nurturing and calming environment for young learners. The curriculum at Georgetown Hill was designed to foster the emotional, social, cognitive, and physical growth of each child. Our P.L.A.N. curriculum stands for Play, Learning, the Arts, and Nurturing. Teachers are trained to identify and cater to the individual needs of each child, ensuring personalized attention and support. Georgetown Hill actively encourages parents to be involved participants in their child's education through consistent communication and parent-teacher conferences.

Our CORE values include being Trustworthy, Child-first, Family-Oriented, Gentle and Joyful. Every day at Georgetown Hill, we join teachers, children, and their families to create an unsurpassed early childhood education experience. In addition to our focus on academics and social and emotional learning (SEL), Georgetown Hill offers a variety of other activities including art, music, physical education, Yoga, Spanish and more!

“This school has been so amazing for our family. I feel so happy to be a part of it! If your first ques-

tion is ‘will the teachers know just how special my child is?’ The answer is YES! All the teachers have been so wonderful and truly go above and beyond not just with academics, with all aspects of children's development, safety, fun, extracurricular, nutrition, emotional wellness, community involvement, parent involvement and so much more! “

—Laura H., *GHES Darnestown Parent*

Our Darnestown Campus is located at the corner of Route 28 and Turkey Foot Road, right in the heart of Darnestown; convenient to Gaithersburg, Kentlands, Germantown, and North Potomac. We share space with Darnestown Presbyterian Church. We opened our doors in September of 2000 and have been celebrating children ever since. Our Darnestown Campus location offers care for Twos through Transitional Kindergarten, as well as before and after care for school-agers from both Jones Lane and Darnestown Elementary Schools. During the summer months and holidays, we offer camps for all ages. By choosing Georgetown Hill, parents can be confident that their child is receiving the best possible start in their educational journey. There are just a few spots left in our classes for the 2023-2024 school year. For more information or to schedule a tour, please call Danielle McGuire at 301-527-1761.

DCA 2023 Membership

Additional DCA Members

We welcome the following DCA members who have either joined since the last publication of *The Little Acorn*, or were mistakenly left off the last membership listing.

Business

Birchwood Lawncare

Acorn

David Clark &
LeeAnne Gelletly
William Lowe

Sponsor

William & Jo-Ellen
Brayer
Liu Family

Friend

Eric & Marsha
Abramson
Jeffrey & Maureen
Bigelow
Gretchen Brown
Eugenio Cerutti &
Sarah O'Byrne
Paul Englehart & Jenni-
fer Loud
Bob & Angie Randall

Mike & Laurie
Romanoff
Paul & Lydia Schindler
Ruta & Thomas Skucas
Jason & Vanessa
Sweeney
Eric & Larra Van Dyke
Eric & Gwendolyn
Vitale
Laura & Mike
Wallerstedt
Jeff & Kristin Wharton

Igor Zamaray

Basic

Carol Allen
Ahdia Bavari & Brian
Tennyson
Holly Buehler
Jackie Cronin
Brian & Susan Eckerle
John & Lexie Estes
Everson-Riley Family
Ron & Nancy Farhood

Andreas Vasileios
Georgiou
Jessica Hahr & Darrin
Phillips
Pat & Theresa Keating
Ankur & Divya Misra
Joanne Morrison
Jim & Karen Otis
Revs Derek & Ashley
Joy Strickler
Eric & Carrie Sypes
John & Judy Wilkinson

Community News

Finegan FC Division Champs!

By Ashod “Vinni” Mirzaians, M.C.P., GSEC, CM-ITI, FCP



Congratulations to the Finegan FC Boys 11U SAM soccer team, consisting of 3rd and 4th graders attending Darnestown Elementary. Led by Coach Ari Janjikian, resident of the Brookmead neighborhood, the team started to emerge as real competitors in 2022, losing the final championship game to Sharks United Black. That was their first season as soccer players.

As 2023 rolled in so did the soccer practices. It was a bit of a bumpy start in March, losing their first game of the season. Yet the team was able to rise above their loss and beat the Sharks United Black (the 2022 championship team) in their 2nd game with a score of 8–1. As the Finegan FC continued to win games, the time came to beat the Camouflaged Dragons. Two games were played, and each game was in favor of Finegan FC which placed this local boys team in the #1 position within the division.

Making it through this major hurdle, they had to prepare to play against MoCo Tigers, the #2 seeded team within the division. The anticipation leading up to game day was stressful enough not just for the team, but the parents as well. But preparing for the final championship game was an amazing experience for the team. Many of the kids were happy, and some were just anxious and—myself as a parent—I had butterflies in my stomach. The game turned out to be an amazing nail-biter for the entire hour of play time.

The game started with both teams attacking goals quickly, many misses and many saves. The first goal was won by Finegan FC within the first 15 minutes of the game. The 2nd goal came within the last minute of the first half allowing both teams to enter halftime break tied at 1–1. Tied at the half, the MoCo tigers came out with immense

intensity, striving to score a goal. Many attempts were made but none were successful, because of the skills of the Finegan FC goalkeeper, “The Beast.” Both teams remained evenly matched throughout the game and both teams did an amazing job keeping the ball away from one another. With 5 minutes remaining in the second half, “The Kicker” scored the winning goal for Finegan FC, with a score of 2–1.

Both teams had an amazing season out of their total of 6 games played. Each team won a total of 4 games during the regular season, with 1 loss and 1 tie. The intensity of both teams is truly of a world cup soccer team, and it shows in the results. In my honest opinion, both teams are champions. To play during a school season, with homework, other activities and yet to make it to the championship game is an amazing accomplishment by both teams. Way to go, Finegan FC!

Letter to the Community

Darnestown, Our Home

By SangHee Jeong

We are Darnestown residents of two years now and we love it here. I want to share how we felt when we first got here and how grateful we are to this welcoming community.

We immediately fell in love with Darnestown on our weekend house-hunting trip from North Carolina in February 2021. It was a brisk sunny day when we drove into Ancient Oak Drive from the main road, and we already felt cozy there. When we turned right into Chestnut Oak, we were greeted by a family of deer. We loved the neat street lined with beautiful trees. Of course, we loved our prospective house as well, so it was a done deal in our minds.

When we finally completed our complicated move by June of that year, there was tons of work to do to settle in this new place. Among many urgent tasks, I needed to find some friends for my then 6-year-old daughter. I learned that there is a neighborhood Facebook group called “Chestnut Oak/ Water Oak / Wye Oak/ Ancient Oak.” I signed up right away and posted a message looking for children of similar age to play with. Sarah Billstein kindly responded, so we could visit their house, and my daughter could play with their two sons. I felt hope!

I grew up in South Korea and my husband grew up in Ita-
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Community News

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ly. Neither of us were familiar with the public school system here. I enrolled my daughter in Darnestown Elementary School, but we did not know anything about how the school works and what to expect. I posted to the FB group again calling for help, and Jenn Bauer kindly answered. We met her family at our house, and she answered all the questions we had about the K-12 school system here. Since then, she's been very helpful, sharing local resources and school events. While talking to her, I learned that she'd been serving as a DES PTA board member. Inspired by her, I joined the DES PTA board the next year.

By and by, we got to know our neighbors as well. Our immediate neighbors were very easy to talk to and made us feel welcomed. When we were out on our driveway, people walking by would stop by to welcome us to the neighborhood. We could sense a community spirit.

The previous owner of our house recommended we join the Darnestown Civic Association as a member. So we did and received *The Little Acorn* newsletter. It was a delight to read local news and learn about local events. From the newsletter, we learned that there was



Our family at the Darnestown Spring Market

going to be Darnestown Artist and Farmer's Market in the fall. We decided to participate in the market and sell wooden plates and bowls from my small online business. It was such a fun event where you could meet lots of people from the neighborhood

and buy locally crafted goods. We met Scott Mostrom, the president of DCA, at the market. It was great to see the president whom I had known only in the newsletter in person!

We were pleasantly surprised when we found a nice welcome gift bag from DCA hanging on our front door-knob. What a kind gesture! It included a thick cookbook gathered from the neighbors of Darnestown. I could see not only the cooking recipes of all kinds but their cultural and historical value. In the winter, Santa's truck drove throughout the neighborhood with a firetruck that made my daughter and her friends so excited.

In the spring, the Easter celebration was held in Darnestown Presbyterian Church right next to DES. Of

course, we wanted to join and celebrate together. There were many fun activities prepared for the children and lots of different homemade cookies that the volunteers prepared. We felt so lucky to be in this welcoming community that cares about the people.

We try to participate as much as we can. We once attended the DCA online town hall meeting. I was amazed by all the hard work and efforts that the members were putting in to make our town a safe, beautiful, and warm place to live. Thank you all who serve on the board!

Now that we have lived here for solid two years, we have no doubt that we made the best choice. We are ever grateful to the community that opened its arm to the newcomers. We would like to do the same.

Farm & Forest Explorers Program: Free Children's Nature Class

Thursdays, October 5, 12, 19, 26; November 2
9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Calling all Darnestown neighbors! Join us for the fall Farm & Forest Explorers program, a free nature class designed for children ages 2-5 and their caretakers.



Children will have a blast meeting chickens and horses, hiking our scenic trails, and exploring the wonders of creeks and ponds while learning about plants and nature.

Let's embrace the beauty of the outdoors and enjoy some family fun together this fall! Sign up for a class at www.ButlerSchool.org/forest and create unforgettable memories with your little ones.

We Welcome Your Submissions to *The Little Acorn*

Deadline for the next issue:

November 1, 2023

Email ideas, questions or articles to:
acorn@darnestowncivic.org

Organizations



Comfort Cases' 2023 Annual BBQ Benefit:

Comus Farm—Saturday, September 30, 2023

Comfort Cases invites you to join in the 2023 Annual BBQ Benefit: Fostering Focus on the Future! Secure your tickets (limited availability) for Comfort Cases' largest fundraiser of the year at the Comus Farm in Dickerson, MD on Saturday, September 30, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Proceeds from the Benefit will impact our 2023 goal of 40,000 Comfort Cases reaching the arms of children in foster care, and aid in our headquarters relocating to a new local center.

The semi-'FARM'al fall festivities will include a cocktail hour, live music, hands-on mission moments, photo opportunities, raffles, auctions, dinner, awards, scholarship recognition, keynote remarks and many special surprises. Holly Morris of Fox 5 Good Day DC is the Benefit's emcee and the Como Brothers Band will dazzle guests as the night's musical entertainment.



Learn More & Access Tickets: comfortcases.org/benefit

Comfort Cases (comfortcases.org) was founded by the Scheer Family here in Darnestown in 2013 with the goal of eliminating trash bags being carried by children in foster care in lieu of suitcases. Comfort Cases, filled with meaningful items of comfort and necessity, have been provided to more than 200,000 children and youth (ages newborn to 21) in foster care in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the United Kingdom.

Enter The Sugarloaf Getaway Raffle To Un-Wine-D, Dine & Recline (Valued At \$2,000+): Winner will be announced at 2023 Annual BBQ Benefit, and does NOT need to be present to win.



Contact the 2023 Chair, Jenn Moss, with questions or ideas at jmoss@comfortcases.org.

Comfort Cases is grateful to Darnestown for supporting our shared mission of extending support to youth in foster care in the most kind, caring, and compassionate of ways for over a decade!



What a Full Summer of 2023! Swim, Tennis, Pickleball, Camp, Social

By Aleks Schiff

WOW, What a Great 2023 Season!

The pool deck was hustling and bustling all summer with our full membership! It has been wonderful to see our community having so much fun enjoying all the great programming at the Club! And, thanks to all of you, the slide fundraiser was a huge success, and we all look forward to this nice upgrade for our members.

Demon Swim Team finished the season 3-2 and will continue in B Division for the 2024 season. All our amazing swimmers should be proud of another successful season under Coach Pat's leadership!

Camp GreenZone was a huge success led by our Director, Alyssa, and her team of counselors. They had very engaging programming for the kids and the feedback was wonderful!

Social Events team always works hard to come up with and host new events along with the old favorites, keeping our community of all ages engaged throughout the summer—and there's more to come through the fall!

Continued on 11

Organizations (continued)

Continued from 10



*Swimming, creeking,
tennis — oh my!*



Tennis & Pickleball season was very active all summer and will continue going through the fall, thanks to the leadership of our new **Tennis Pro Bruce**. So, remember to keep coming out to the courts and joining clinics as they continue into the fall.

We are a year-round active community with tennis, pickleball, swim, camp, and social events throughout the year. **And, if you apply now for a 2024 membership, there is a very good chance you will have a membership by next summer!** So, get on the wait-list today. More details on all our programming are at www.dsclub.com.

Connect with us for the latest updates!

Facebook: [@DarnestownSwimRacquetClub](https://www.facebook.com/DarnestownSwimRacquetClub)

Instagram: [@DSRClub](https://www.instagram.com/DSRClub) • Email: GM@dsrclub.com

15004 Spring Meadows Drive, Darnestown, MD

301-330-1340

Troop 1094 Eagle Scout Projects July 31, 2023

By Kepler Offenbacher, Troop 1094 Historian

Nate and Taran Leshin are twins who recently achieved Eagle Rank with Troop 1094. They are the third generation of Eagle Scouts in their family with their father and both grandfathers having also earned this rank.

Nate Leshin's Eagle Scout Project: Montgomery Parks Muddy Branch Trail Reroute



Nate Leshin

place was heavily eroded and over a gas line making it dangerous to trail users.

Twenty-eight volunteers worked hard under Nate's leadership to establish erosion prevention by carving out a 45-degree slope on the uphill side of the trail. Rake-hoes were used to cut into the trail for grading, to smooth the walking surface, and to push away debris. Loppers were used to cut away roots and tripping hazards.

Nate revisited his project recently. He reports that it is in great shape and being used and enjoyed by many members of the community.



Taran Leshin's Project: Shaare Torah's Holocaust Memorial Garden

Taran Leshin's Eagle project was to create a Holocaust Memorial Garden at Shaare Torah synagogue in Lakelands. This was done in partnership with a nonprofit organization called The Daffodil Project whose mission is to plant 1.5 million daffodils in memory of the 1.5 million children who died in the Holocaust. The garden created for this project consists of 500 daffodils.

The first part of the project was the preparation of the garden beds including removing hundreds of

Continued on 12

Organizations (continued)

Continued from 11



Taran Leshin's Project: Shaare Torah's Holocaust Memorial Garden

pounds of clay, tilling the soil, and planting some perennials. This was completed by Taran's friends along with Scouts from Troop 1094. The second part of the project was the daffodil bulb planting. Taran led the entire Shaare Torah religious school in doing the planting and the project included volunteers from the synagogue community.

The garden was completed in October of 2022, and bloomed for the first time this spring. The garden beautifies the synagogue grounds, honors those who perished in the Holocaust, and serves as a reminder that we should never forget.

Nate and Taran Leshin were each awarded Eagle Scout by Scouts BSA and both continue to participate in Troop 1094 projects and activities.



P.E.O. is a Philanthropic Educational Organization where women celebrate the advancement of women through education.

Chapter AD in Darnestown is looking for female candidates for our projects.

Our **STAR** project is a \$2500 scholarship for an exceptional woman in her final year of high school and plans to attend an accredited postsecondary education institution in the U.S. or Canada in the next academic year. The application must be submitted by October 15th.

Our **ELF** (Educational Loan Fund) project offers a maximum loan of \$12,000 for a non-degree accredited program, an associate or bachelor's degree; \$15,000 for a master's degree; and \$20,000 for a doctoral degree.

Our **Scholar** project is a \$20,000 scholarship for women pursuing a doctoral-level degree. Applications must be submitted by November 20th.

Our **PCE**, Program for Continuing Education, project is a \$3000 need-based grant for women whose education has been interrupted and who find it necessary to return to school to complete a degree or certification that will improve their marketable skills for employment to support themselves and their families.

If you know of possible candidates for these awards please contact randalocke@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 7th, for our next fundraising event to support these projects. It will be a Yard Sale on Native Dancer Road which will also include Crepe Myrtle, Heavenly Bamboo, Hostas, and Peonies.

Chapter AD meets the second Saturday of every month at 10:00 a.m. and usually has a monthly social that includes members and friends. Membership in P.E.O. is open to all women 18 years of age and older. The P.E.O. sisterhood has no political or religious affiliation. If you would like to learn more about P.E.O. please visit www.peointernational.org. To learn more about the local P.E.O. Chapter AD in Darnestown please contact Randa Locke at randalocke@gmail.com.

Volunteer Drivers Needed

Gaithersburg Meals on Wheels has a continuing need for drivers to deliver hot and cold meals at lunchtime to the elderly and shut-ins in the Gaithersburg area. Meals are prepared at Asbury Methodist Village, 333 Russell Avenue, and picked up by drivers between 10:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., Monday-Friday. Containers are provided for carrying the meals, and delivery takes about 1 hour, with 8–12 clients on each route. Volunteers are asked to drive either once a week, or once every other week. Children are welcome to accompany parents. Training is provided.

Please call 301-216-4200

Continued on 12

Organizations (continued)



ADVENTURE IS WAITING

Boys & Girls Welcome!

The entire pack meets the 3rd Wednesday each month and for special pack/council events. Open to boys & girls, grades K-5.

Upcoming Events

Ziplining at Adventure Park
(Oct 9 2023 12:00PM)

Pack Meeting
(Oct 18 2023 7:15PM)

Scouting for Food Flyer Distribution
(Oct 28 2023 9:00AM)

Fall Campout
(Oct 28 2023 3:00PM)

Pack Meeting - Movie Night
(Nov 15 2023 6:00PM)

Questions?

Reach out to us at:
committeechair@pack436.com

OR

Visit us at pack436.com!



Pack 436 is part of the National Capital Area Council
For more information contact Feiga Sklovsky at (301) 214-9140.

SCOUT ME IN

Work together.
Have fun.

DARNESTOWN
DARNESTOWN CIVIC
ASSOCIATION

INVITES ALL
DARNESTOWN
VETERANS TO A

VETERANS DAY

Breakfast

*** NOVEMBER 10 ***

DARNESTOWN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
15120 TURKEY FOOT RD
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

In honor of Veterans Day, we invite all Darnestown Veterans and their families to a FREE breakfast at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church. Thank you for serving and sacrificing for the freedom of our nation.

Schools

Butler Montessori

Serving Infants through High School



Natasha Soderberg

Meet our new Head of Butler Montessori, Natasha Soderberg! With a decade of experience in our community and as Associate Head, she's building on the legacy of recent head of school, Laura Manack and past leaders.

Fresh Ideas for the Future: Mrs. S is bringing exciting

changes, including launching our High School program (9–12), expanding extracurriculars, and maintaining our exceptional Montessori program.

Summer Successes: This summer kicked off with a successful Butler Camp, providing opportunities for children across the Metro DC area to have fun, learn about nature, and develop valuable skill sets. The Summer Montessori Semesters provided academic and social-emotional support for our students.



Part of the Darnestown Community: Butler Montessori is proud to be a part of the Darnestown Community, and we are excited to have Mrs. Soderberg as part of that community. Her passion for education and dedication to our students and families will undoubtedly continue the positive development of our school.

Get Involved: We invite you to join us in welcoming Natasha by stopping by to say hello or touring our beautiful 22-acre campus. Your presence and support mean a lot to us as we embark on this new chapter.

Georgetown Hill Early School

By Nicole Reap

The 2023-24 school year is off to a great start! There is so much excitement and anxiety at the beginning of every school year. Last year, I posted an article about separation anxiety and had several parents tell me that it made them feel better to know that this is common for both child and parents. If your child is experiencing separation anxiety, here are some tips for you. Try to visit the classroom and teachers before their first day.



That way, your child will have some familiarity with the room, where things are, etc. At drop off, tell your child how happy you will be to see them when you pick them up. Do not come back after you have said goodbye or linger in the hallway. Your child's teacher will

take over from there. Teachers have many nurturing strategies to help your child settle their anxieties. At home, read books to your child about going to school and talk about how much fun they are going to have at school. Send in a family photo with your child on the first day. At Georgetown Hill, we post family pictures in our classrooms so that children can see their loved ones whenever they want to. The picture can provide comfort and act as a reminder that moms and dads always come back. You can send in a "lovey" or special

Continued on 15

Schools (continued)

Continued from 14

toy during the first few days of school. Especially if your child is staying for naptime, a stuffy will be soothing. Rest assured, our teachers spend the first couple of weeks of school learning about each child, what their needs are, and how we can help them be successful. We focus on building relationships with our families and forming strong bonds between the teachers and students. For more information about our Darnestown campus, please call 301-527-1761.

Seneca Academy

We are excited to be starting our 41st school year! Seneca Academy's mission is to foster children's natural curiosity and ignite a love of learning through a collaborative, inquiry-based program in a dynamic and welcoming community. Through the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (IB PYP), students develop into globally-aware citizens who are compassionate and confident problem-solvers. The academic and social-emotional skills they gain at Seneca Academy prepare them to excel in a rapidly changing world.

At Seneca Academy, we believe:

- Children learn best when given the gift of time to wonder, to explore, and to reflect.
- The foundation of academic excellence begins with learning how to ask questions and seek answers with passion and purpose.
- Partnership between school and home is essential for children's healthy academic, social, and emotional development.
- To thrive in the twenty-first century, children will need to be resilient individuals who can creatively address problems and see setbacks as opportunities for growth.
- Small classes led by dynamic teachers provide opportunities for students to develop self-confidence and find their voices.
- When diversity is valued, ideas can be debated respectfully and conflicts can be resolved effectively.

- Time spent outdoors, both structured and unstructured, is fundamental to children's well-being and academic engagement.

If this is the kind of learning environment and partnership you want for your family, it is not too late to join our amazing community! Limited spaces are available in our programs for ages 2 through 5th Grade. Email info@senecaacademy.org to inquire about class availability and to schedule a tour!

Friday Friends Playgroup: Seneca Academy is forming a free playgroup open to all parents and caregivers of infants to two-year olds. We will be gathering and playing in a toddler-friendly classroom on the first Friday of the month beginning in November. Please visit www.senecaacademy.org/fridayfriends for more info!

Darnestown Community Band: Students from around the area can also join us for our after-school band which begins in October. We offer the Darnestown Community Band for 4th through 8th graders. Please email info@senecaacademy.org if you are interested.

Parenting Series: The Seneca Academy Parenting Series returns in-person again this school year! Dr. Michelle Parker, a child psychologist and our Head of School, will be presenting three separate workshops. These workshops are free and open to the public. Save the date for "Understanding Your Child's Developing Brain" on Thursday, November 9th at 6:30 p.m. at Seneca Academy. For more information or to register visit: <https://www.senecaacademy.org/parenting-series/>



Santa Mailbox Returns to Darnestown

Darnestown will once again have our very own Santa Mailbox for the holidays! The mailbox will be in Heritage Park (next to Harris Teeter) after Thanksgiving and will be accepting letters until December 24th.

Churches



The Buzz at St. Nicholas'

(Published in the Diocesan Bulletin newsletter of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington on Thursday, July 6, 2023.)

St. Nicholas' Church in Germantown is buzzing this summer, caring for creation and their neighbors. Thanks to the good work of Roma Diak and her Girl Scout troop—who more than doubled the size of the congregation's Nourishing Garden for Roma's Gold-Star Award project—the parish is on track to donate 500 pounds of vegetables to Nourish Now, a food distribution program helping those experiencing food insecurity in Montgomery County.

The parish's campus is also home now to 15 colonies of bees, courtesy of local beekeeper, Ari Benjaminson. He learned of St. Nicholas' land offer through the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association. At a recent "show and tell," Ari spoke about beekeeping and his apiary, and introduced members of St. Nicholas' to his dashing Queen Bee—who likes to stand out from the crowds in bright pink.



Darnestown Presbyterian Church

By Larry Ciolorito

Annual Bazaar On Nov 4th! The 2023 Darnestown Presbyterian Women's Bazaar is coming again to Darnestown this fall! As always, it will feature crafts, home décor, holiday gifts, books, jewelry, home baked goods and jams, a silent auction—and a hot lunch or homemade dessert in our Café. **Proceeds from the Bazaar support multiple local charities**—come enjoy and support this Darnestown institution!

Our New Associate Pastor! We're thrilled to welcome our Associate Pastor, Blake Collins, and his wife Kelsey! Blake grew up in Columbia, MD, and after graduating from Temple University, studied police-and-community relations in graduate school; he also completed a year of service in Peru as a Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer. During seminary, Blake worked as Director of Communications at Urban Village Church and as Theological Certificate Coordinator for students in pre-trial detention at Cook County Jail. As a pastoral intern at Chicago's Friendship Presbyterian Church, Blake led a pantry to support veterans, the disabled, and working families moving to affordable housing. We are thrilled that Blake and Kelsey are joining us here at DPC!

In Person Worship/Live-Streaming. We continue in-person worship and live-streaming on YouTube at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday. In mid-September we transition back to 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship, with weekly child and adult Sunday School. Please check our website www.darnestownpc.org/ for updates!

Business Directory

Looking for a local business? The generosity of these local businesses helps to pay for the printing and distribution of *The Little Acorn*. You can also access this listing at www.darnestowncivic.org under the **Community Information** tab.

6-Twelve | Convenient Mart

14100 Darnestown Rd, Darnestown
301-990-1700
6-12beerwinemart@gmail.com

Allstate | Insurance & Financial Services

14100 Darnestown Road, Ste. D,
Darnestown
301-670-4150
derekkaplan@allstate.com

Jennifer M Beitler, DDS PC | Dentist

9601 Blackwell Road Ste. 240, Rockville
301-972-0260
info@jenniferbeitlerdds.com

**Melissa Bernstein Homes, RLAH,
Berkshire Hathaway | Realtor**

4600 N. Park Ave., Chevy Chase
301-908-4007
www.melissabernstein.com

Birchwood Lawncare | Landscape Services

13424 Haddonfield Lane, Darnestown
301-275-5417
kricci2@verizon.net

Bretton Woods | Recreation Center

15700 River Road, Darnestown
301-948-3357
www.bwrc.org

**Jose Carbajal | Lawn & Landscaping,
Tree removal, Snow removal, Firewood**

14111 Esworthy Rd, Darnestown
jose.lawnandlandscaping@gmail.com

**Carpet & Flooring LLC | Carpet & Flooring
Services**

14115 Seneca Road, Darnestown
240-477-7260
majid@carpetandflooringcenter.com

Clark Tree Services | Tree Service

5 Finegan Ct, Darnestown
240-560-8733
daniel@clarktrees.com

**Darnestown Shell | Gas, Convenience,
Auto Repairs**

14020 Darnestown Rd, Darnestown
301-840-8515
darnestownshell@gmail.com

Darnestown Smiles | Family Dentistry

14128 Darnestown Rd, Darnestown
240-477-8251
mail@darnestownsmiles.com

**Darnestown Swim & Racquet Club | Swim,
Tennis, Summer Camp & Disc Golf Club**

15004 Spring Meadows Dr, Darnestown
301-330-1340
GM@dsrclub.com

**DB&C Home Restorations | Kitchen &
Bath Remodeling & Home Improvements**

14905 Braemar Crescent Way, Darnestown
301-641-0718
Loraine@dbchomerestorations.com

**Valerie Fuster, Realtor | Long & Foster
Real Estate Inc.**

10121 River Road, Potomac
301-299-6000
vfuster@icloud.com
www.valfuster.com

Georgetown Hill Early School | Preschool

15120-B Turkey Foot Road
301-527-1761
www.georgetownhill.com
darnestown@georgetownhill.com

**Johnson Chimney Service | Chimney
Repair & Restoration**

14115 Seneca Rd, Darnestown
301-949-1780
www.johnsonchimney.com/us/
walter@johnsonchimney.com

Kerrana Kangen | Alkaline Ionized Water

14115 Seneca Rd, Darnestown
301-518-9455
www.kerranakangen.com
joni@kerranakangen.com

**Lowe-Tillson Insurance & Associates, Inc. |
Full-Service Insurance Agency**

2403 Research Blvd. Ste. 350, Rockville
301-258-7773
www.lowetillson.com
service@lowetillson.com

**Noahs' Preferred Properties | Real Estate
Management**

313 Main St, Kentlands
301-674-0990
jnoah@noahsproperties.com

**ohDEER | Organic Deer, Tick &
Mosquito Control**

833-ohDEERMCo | 833-643-3376
MoCoMD@oh-DEER.com
www.oh-DEER.com/MoCo
@ohDEERMCo

**Pleasant Hills Farm | Specialty
Flower Farm**

14820 Kelley Farm Drive
240-281-2110
www.pleasanthillsfarm.com

**Preferred Insurance Solutions, LLC | Auto,
Home and Business Insurance**

20030 Century Blvd, Ste. 201,
Germantown
301-428-3344
ins@preferredinsurancesolutions.com

**Real Computer Solutions, Inc. | IT and
Technology Support**

1 Research Ct, Ste. 450, Rockville
301-330-REAL (7325)
www.realcomputersolutions.com

Miguel Saba Realtor | Compass Real Estate

12435 Park Potomac Ave Ste R-1, Potomac
240-775-0509
miguel@miguelsaba.com
www.miguelsaba.com

**Seneca Studio | Original Handcrafted
Furnishings**

240-812-1792
Senecastudio.com
lukasz@senecastudio.com

**Smokey Glen Farm | Event Facilities
and BBQs**

16407 Riffleford Rd, Darnestown
301-948-1518
jsweet@smokeyglenfarm.com

Stiles Dentistry | Dentist

333 Main St, Gaithersburg
301-947-6900
smile@stilesdentistry.com

SwimLabs Swim School | Swim School

353 Muddy Branch Rd, Gaithersburg
240-801-4518
ddombay@swimlabs.com

**The Tyra Law Firm, LLC | Estate Planning
Law Office**

199 East Montgomery Ave, Suite 100, Rockville
301-315-0811
neiltyra@tyralawfirm.com

United Service Specialists | HVAC Services

7559 Rickenbacker Dr, Gaithersburg
dispatch@calluss.com

Valley Mill Camp | Camp

15101 Seneca Rd, Darnestown
301-948-0220
www.valleymill.com
evelyn@valleymill.com

**Wilniq Auto Body & Mechanical Repairs |
Auto Body Shop**

14125 Seneca Rd, Darnestown
301-545-1800
www.wilniq.com
autobody@wilniq.com

Windridge Vineyards | Vineyard

15700 Darnestown Rd, Darnestown
301-607-4399
robert@windridgefarm.com

Interested in joining this list?
Please use our online application form at
www.darnestowncivic.org.

Darnestown Schools, Organizations & Churches

If you are a Darnestown school, organization or church and would like your name added to this list, please send your information to acorn@darnestowncivic.org

Organizations

Boy Scout Troop 1094

sm@troop1094.org

Cub Scout Troop 436

committeechair@pack436.com

Darne Bloomers

Garden Club

www.Darnebloomers.com

Darnestown Civic

Association

14100G Darnestown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
www.Darnestowncivic.org

Girl Scout Troop 33217

troop.33217@gmail.com

P.E.O. International

www.peointernational.org

Churches

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

15120 Turkey Foot Rd
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-948-9127
www.Darnestownpc.org
dpchurch@comcast.net

Fairhaven United Methodist Church

Rev. Kenneth Hawes
12801 Darnestown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-330-5433

Gaithersburg International

Christian Fellowship

13101 Darnestown Rd
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-869-8343
welcome@gicf.church

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Father Greg Shaffer
14139 Seneca Rd
Darnestown MD 20874
301-948-5536
www.Olvp.org
parishoffice@olvp.org

Seneca Community Church

Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson
13900 Berryville Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-869-9326

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

Rev. Beth O'Callaghan
15575 Germantown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
240-631-2800
www.Saintnicks.com

Schools

Butler Montessori School

15951 Germantown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-977-6600

Circle School/Seneca Academy

15601 Germantown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-869-3728

Darnestown Elementary School

15030 Turkey Foot Rd
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-548-4260

Georgetown Hill Early School

15120-B Turkey Foot Road
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-527-1761
www.georgetownhill.com

Jones Lane Elementary School

15110 Jones Ln
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-840-8160

Lakelands Park Middle School

1200 Main St
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-670-1400

Mary of Nazareth School

14131 Seneca Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-869-0940
www.Maryofnazareth.org

Northwest High School

12501 Richter Farm Rd
Germantown, MD 20874
301-601-4660

Quince Orchard High School

15800 Quince Orchard Rd
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-840-4686

Service Providers

To be included on this list in the next issue of *The Little Acorn*, please email your contact information including your year of birth to acorn@darnestowncivic.org before August 1, 2023.

Please let us know if you no longer want to be listed. Of course, for those over 21, you may be listed as an adult. We reserve this listing for those who are members of the DCA. A great reason to join! Note that babysitters and mother's helpers must be under 21 to be listed.

Babysitters & Mother's Helpers

Esther Clark (2007) 240-328-9842

Rachel Clark (2005) 240-618-5809

Jennifer Juhring (2004) 240-575-0009

Ashley Mostrom (2003) 240-277-8526

Georgia Mostrom (2007) 240-480-8622

Melissa Szwed (2004) 301-519-0645

House/Pet Sitters

Liv Gabri (2009) 240-353-7079

Kirabo Payne (2009) 202-257-9378

Jonas Skucas (2005) 301-525-2501

Notary Services

Tina Kalil 301-943-9840

Elisa Lane 301-990-2993

Join the DCA!

You can register for a DCA membership online by going to darnestowncivic.org or by scanning the QR code here.



Or you can join by mail
by using the form on page 19!

The Little Acorn

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Melissa Mostrom
(welcome@darnestowncivic.org)
Zoning: Miguel Saba
(zoning@darnestowncivic.org)

DCA Membership Renewal/Application Form

Membership Category, please check one:

Basic \$35 Friend \$50 Sponsor \$100

Acorn \$150 Business \$250

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Spouse/Partner First Name _____

Spouse/Partner Last Name _____

Business Name _____

Please indicate how you would like to have your name(s) appear in the annual membership listing: *(if you leave the line blank we will use your first and last names, to opt out see below)*

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number(s) _____

1st E-Mail Address _____

2nd E-mail Address _____

Make Check Payable to:
Darnestown Civic Association

Mail to:
14100 Darnestown RD
STE G
Darnestown, MD 20874

The following section allows you to opt-out of having information related to your members published by the DCA. If you would like your information listed in *The Little Acorn* or in a DCA Directory you can skip this section.

The DCA publishes a list of our paid members in *The Little Acorn*, please check below if you do not want your information provided:

DO NOT publish my name in *The Little Acorn* membership listing.

The DCA occasionally publishes a directory for its membership, please check below if you do not want your information provided:

DO NOT publish my name and contact information in the DCA directory.



Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14100G Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org

Website: darnestowncivic.org

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